Promotion of tourism in Rajasthan

1713. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred by Government on the promotion of tourism in Rajasthan during the last three years; and

(b) the ongoing schemes and the new schemes proposed by the State Government for which Central assistance has been sought?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI MOHSIN KIDWAI): (a) The Central Ministry of Tourism has incurred an expenditure of Rs. 35.76 lakhs on projects sanctioned during the first three years of the 7th Five Year Plan so far.

(b) Details of ongoing schemes in the State of Rajasthan including those sanctioned during the Sixth Plan are as follows:—

ONGOING SCHEMES

(Rs. in lakhs)

	Name of the Scheme	Amount sanctioned	Amount released
1.	Development of Gadisar Tank and Sunset Point	3.78	3.40
2.	Midway facilities at Pokaran	9.74	8.00
3.	Improvement and Modernisation of Indra Ghat and Karni Ghat at Pushkar	12.99	7.00
4.	Construction of Cafeteria at Tal Vriksha near Alwar.	5.93	4.00
5.	Forest Lodge at Ranthambore	16.52	15.00
6.	Expansion of Tourist Bungalow at Ranakpur	8.38	4.50
7.	Desert National Park at Jaisalmer	15.51	8.00
8.	Mini buses & Jeeps for Alwar, Ranthambore and Bharatpur Sanctuaries	4.77	4.29
9.	Boats for Fatehsagar in Udaipur	3.94	1.00
10.	Mehrangarh Fort—Floodlighting	5.89	5.29

The Ministry of Tourism has received 19 proposals from the Government of Rajasthan for sanction of financial assistance during 1988-89 and these include Yatri Niwases, Vehicles for Wildlife Sanctuaries, Midway facilities, Tourist Complexes, Tourist Bungalows, Water Sports equipment etc.

Task force for drought relieving measures

1714. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Blocks and Districts in different States included under Drought Prone Area Programme;

whether any task force was ;inted some time back under the .airmanship of Dr. M.S. Swaminaan to recommend some new measures to be taken up under the Drought Prone Area Programme &

(e) if so, what were its recommendations and how the same are being implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) 615 Blocks of 91 Districts in 13 States have been included under the Drought Prone Area Programme.

(b) and (c) A task force was set up in June, 1980 to review the objectives, broad strategy of development coverage and components of the Drough t Prone Area Programme & Desert Development Programme. The report of the task force received in January, 1982 has been accepted with certain modifications relating to the coverage and pattern of funding. Some of the major recommendations of the task force are summarised at attached Statement. (*See* below)

Focus on Drought Proofing has been sharpened. With this objective in view, it has been laid down that 75 per cent of annual allocation would be spent on activities relating to Soil & moisture conservation, water resources development including water conservation and harvesting schemes, afforestation, pasture development, etc.

Continued emphasis is being placed on integration of other rural development programmes with DPAP on a watershed basis. The Programme is being closely monitored. A proposal for undertaking concurrent evaluation is also under consideration.

Statement

Some of the Major recommendations of the Task Force

1. The present overlapping between the Drought Prone Area Programme and Desert Development Programme, which have broadly similar objectives, should be terminated.

2. The objectives of the DPAP should be as follows:

(a) promoting a more productive dryland agriculture on the basis of the soil-water-climate resource of the area;

(b) development and productive use of the water resources of the area;

(c) soil and moisture conservation including promotion of proper land use practices;

(d) afforestation including farm forestry; and

(e) livestock development including development of pasture and fodder resources.

3. There should be regular interdisciplinary studies to determine the water budget of each area and a programme for the most productive cropping system should be developed. Research and extension efforts should be dovetailed into each other in every such exercise.

4. Greater emphasis needs to be placed on increasing the productivity of pasture areas and in arresting the decline in the area under pasture.

5. In addition to afforestation in public land, greater attention needs to be paid to development of afforestation in marginal and sub-marginal land belonging to individuals.

6. Priority should be given to harvesting of rainwater and exploiting it to the maximum advantage.

7. Utilisation of the irrigation potential should be stepped up.

8. Soil conservation should continue to be a priority programme but project funds should not be used for giving loans. A proper land use policy should be developed.

9. There should be closer linkage among different development programmes in the rural sector.

10. There should be exclusive arrangements for implementing the Programme in different districts.

11. There should be regular evaluation of (a) specific programme activities in different projects, and (b) the entire programme in a project by State Governments. At the State level, implementation should be regularly monitored and efforts made to quantify achievements in different sectors. State Governments should constitute teams of experienced personnel of the relevant disciplines to formulate schemes for different project areas and spell out of the details of implementation.

12. Under the DPAP, allocations may continue to be made at the rate of Rs. 15 lakhs per block. The expenditure should continue to be shared equally between the Union and State Governments.

Retrenchment of Contract Labour in Rourkela Steel Plant

1715. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Public Sector Rourkela Steel Plant has recently been held guilty by the State labour officials of illegally retrenching a large number of contract labourers; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons of such retrenchments and the action taken by the Steel Authority of India Ltd. in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Promotion of Tourism in Orissa

1716. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what steps the Central Government have taken to promote tourism in Orissa during the year 1988-89; and

(b) how many tourist centres and Yatri Niwases are proposed to be set up in Orissa during the year 1988-89?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) The Central Ministry of Tourism does not allocate funds Statewise but schemewise for development of tourism infrastructure in the States. The Ministry has received proposals from the Government of Orissa for financial assistance for tourism projects during 1988-89. These would be taken up by the Ministry for financial sanction subject to merits of the proposals, availability of funds and *inter-se* priorities. No Yatri Niwases are proposed to be set up in Orissa during 1988-89 as the two Yatri Niwases already sanctioned. One each at Konark and Satpada, are yet to be completed.

Winding up of the National Council for Safety in Mines

1717. SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to wind up the National Council for Safety in Mines;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;